

After key vote, Trump to urge House Republicans to back budget bill

Trump will personally try to keep the House GOP conference united on the tax and immigration bill.

By Cleve R. Wootson Jr. and Marianna Sotomayor
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President Donald Trump will meet with House Republicans on Capitol Hill on Tuesday in an effort to unite his party behind his tax and immigration agenda, according to three people who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe Trump's plans.

Trump's massive tax and immigration bill narrowly passed the House Budget Committee late Sunday after a revolt from GOP hard-liners concerned about spending. This week, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) and his leadership team will try to unite the conference around the One Big Beautiful Bill.

Trump's in-person advocacy shows a commitment to keeping the bill on track — and potential holdouts in line. The stakes for him are high: He has been bragging about the pace of his “golden age” agenda but faces headwinds, including economic nerves over tariffs, legal challenges and, now, divisions over the bill.

At a press briefing Monday morning, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said that Republicans who oppose the bill would be siding with Democrats and raising taxes on Americans if it does not advance in the House later this week.

“Passing this bill is what voters sent Republicans to Washington to accomplish,” Leavitt said. “And that’s why it’s essential that every Republican in the House and the Senate unites behind President Trump and passes this popular and essential legislative package.”

The message echoes the argument House Republican leaders have been making to wavering lawmakers for months: It's Trump, not House

Republicans, who earned this majority, so it's time for lawmakers to step up and vote through plans.

The massive tax and immigration bill is central to Trump's agenda, and hesitance from some members of his party represents a sizable early test for his administration. Trump and Johnson must muscle his agenda through the House's historically narrow majority, where they can lose only three Republicans for a successful vote.

Dozens of House Republicans remain unconvinced by the bill in its current state. Members of his party's far-right flank remain concerned that the legislation would balloon annual budget deficits, while moderates fear changes that lurch the bill to the right could jeopardize their reelection efforts — and their paper-thin majority.

Four fiscal conservatives initially blocked the bill in a committee vote Friday, in a rebuke of both Trump and Johnson. The holdouts, all of whom belong to the ultraconservative House Freedom Caucus, spent Sunday afternoon huddling in Johnson's office with House leaders and White House officials. But the weekend negotiations yielded only enough progress for hard-liners to vote "present" to advance the bill to the House Rules Committee late Sunday night, signaling the wide disagreement that persists among the House GOP conference unless changes are made.

Johnson has kept Trump fully abreast of the ongoing negotiations, but the president has yet to call lawmakers directly to whip them, according to two people involved in the negotiations who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private talks.

"He's been very involved. He always says he's willing to pick up the phone when he is asked to," Leavitt said. "So he'll continue to be very engaged in this process with both House members and his friends on the Senate side as well."

House GOP leadership had always planned to use Trump to whip votes. But bringing Trump in this early to meet with lawmakers shows how eager leaders are to get holdouts in line.

Lawmakers are hoping that Trump could resolve policy disagreements if he publicizes his preference.

House GOP leadership aides say that sticking points remain on when Medicaid work requirements should kick in, when Biden-era energy tax

credits should be repealed, and how high to cap state and local taxes to appease blue-state Republicans. The demands on those issues, made by fiscal hawks over the weekend, need to be shopped around other ideological factions before Johnson can decide how to properly tweak the bill. If Trump opines on the matter, that could help expedite the process, GOP lawmakers and aides say.

One issue where moderates remain unconvinced is on raising the cap on the federal reduction of state and local taxes (SALT), which sits at \$10,000. GOP leadership has offered to raise the cap to \$30,000, but six Republican lawmakers from blue states remain firmly opposed.

Finding solutions on SALT and other policy issues could still pose a problem for ultraconservative hard-liners who for years have demanded that Republican-backed spending bills must substantially reduce the deficit. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget has estimated that making the spending cuts in the House version of the bill permanent would add more than \$4 trillion to the debt over the next 10 years, including interest.

Stephen Miran, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, told reporters Monday that Trump is “a driving force behind the critical provisions that are going to boost the economy in this bill.”

“I expect him to bring it home, because that’s what he does,” Miran said.

The White House on Monday released an analysis that estimated the bill could add or save up to 7.4 million jobs, and that it could raise gross domestic product by up to 5.2 percent over the next four years. The White House’s projections came just three days after Moody’s Ratings downgraded the United States’ credit rating as the Republican budget bill is projected to add more than \$2.5 trillion to the federal deficit over the next decade, according to nonpartisan experts and budget experts. Miran said Moody’s is “backward-looking; it tends to be late on these things.”

Miran claimed that DOGE cuts and revenue from tariffs would help bring the deficit down. But the White House keeps changing its tariff policy, and DOGE has fallen far short of its initial goal to slash \$2 trillion in federal spending.

Miran said the White House was working — in both this bill and via other measures — to bring down federal deficits.

“I do want to assure everyone that the deficit is a very big concern for this administration,” he said. “We are determined to bring it down and undo the fiscal damage that was brought by the Biden administration.”

Cat Zakrzewski and Amy B Wang contributed to this report.